REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper

format under United States practice is submitted herein.

Further, claims 1-17 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 18-34 are

presented for examination. New claims 18-34 are deemed to be self-evident from the original

disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new

matter. Further, new claims 18-34 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect

in comparison with respective canceled claims 1-17.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

Attorneys of Record

I:\ATTY\SNS\267382US-PR.DOC

7